[25th October 1956

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : The Madras Retail Merchants' Association, Madras, has submitted a petition, dated 1st September 1956, requesting among other things that the turnover for registration of a dealer be increased from Rs. 7,500 to Rs. 12,000 and that the taxable turnover be raised from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 30,000.

SRI K. C. GOPALAN UNNI : Has any action been taken on the memorandum?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : No action has been taken in view of the fact that the Taxation Enquiry Commission had stated that the turnover amount should be reduced to rupees 5,000.

Scheme for the construction of Kudupatti reservoir

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Member Sri K. Aranganathan was not present when his question (No. 341) was called. He desires to put his question now. He will put the question now.

SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : I put the question, Sir.

* 341 Q.—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether the Government have received any scheme from the Chief Engineer to construct Kudupatti reservoir at Sevalapuri across Sankaraparani river Gingee taluk, South Arcot district?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : Yes. We received a scheme from the Chief Engineer (Irrigation) in February 1949. After examination the scheme was deferred. The question of taking up the scheme is again being considered now.

SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : In this connexion I would like the Hon. Minister to consider all the various points. The construction of the Vidur reservoir has been included in the Second Five-Year Plan to irrigate Tindivanam taluk. The original scheme is to construct the Kudupatti reservoir in Gingee taluk to irrigate Tindivanam taluk. A Division was created for this purpose and the Division has so worked as to irrigate Tindivanam taluk from the reservoir in Gingee taluk. Gingee taluk is a backward and dry high level area. There are no rivers except Sankaraparani and Tondiyar—a rivulet. Therefore any reservoir to be constructed in Gingee should be useful only to Gingee taluk. Vidur reservoir will irrigate Tindivanam taluk. Even the original Krishna–Pennar scheme is only to irrigate Tindivanam taluk and not Gingee taluk. As such I request the Hon. Minister to consider all these and make the necessary arrangements for the construction of a reservoir in Gingee taluk to irrigate Gingee taluk alone. Otherwise, it would be a great injustice done to Gingee taluk.

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : Off-hand I cannot answer the question. This question no doubt is slightly complicated by the fact of having to provide

25th October 1956]

water for Pondicherry State by the construction of the Vidur reservoir. Only after all the aspects are examined and considered, I will be in a position to say exactly where the location of the reservoir will be and what new areas will be served by that reservoir.

Sri K. ARANGANATHAN : Sir, I would request the Hon. Minister to investigate the construction of a reservoir to irrigate Gingee taluk alone by creating a new Division in addition to the Vidur reservoir included in the Second Five-Year Plan. As per the original scheme, the then Chief Minister Sri O. P. Ramaswami Reddiar ordered the formation of a Division to prepare plans and estimates for irrigating Tindivanam taluk alone. Even then Gingee taluk—a high level dry area—was ignored and neglected?

The Hon. Sri R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : All the aspects of the question are being examined. I cannot give an assurance as to what will be done. All aspects will be examined in the light of the present situation.

Private notice question

Repairs to the bed regulator of Ponneri tank, Udayarpalayam taluk

Mr. SPEAKER : The hon. Member Sri K. R. Viswanathan will please read his question. (The question has not been circulated.)

Sri K. R. VISWANATHAN : Sir, this Ponneri tank in Udayarpalayam taluk is the only major irrigation tank.

Mr. SPEAKER : The hon. Member will please read his question first.

Sri K. R. VISWANATHAN : This Ponneri tank has been abandoned for a long time. No repairs have been carried out.

Mr. SPEAKER : Order, order. The question is a private notice question. The question of Sri K. R. Viswanathan reads—

* 3 *Q.*—Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to make a statement regarding the failure of the Public Works Department authorities to keep the bed regulator of Ponneri irrigation tank in Udayarpalayam taluk, Tiruchirappalli district, in good repair?

The Hon. Sri R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : Ponneri tank is a very old tank, situated about half a mile west of Kuruvallapparkoil village in Udayarpalayam taluk, Tiruchirappalli district. The source to this tank, viz., the Karuvattu Odai, had breached the north bund of the tank several years ago, as a result, only the deep bed of the tank had been serving an ayacut of about 60 acres through one sluice. The tank was restored in 1945 to its full capacity of 125 m.c.ft. for serving an area of 1,440 acres, and 3 more sluices were provided for a maximum flood discharge of 7,500 cusecs.